

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 6, 1999

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Senator Haynes

May 17, 1999

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to child sexual abuse.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, as amended, Haynes. Child sexual abuse.

This measure would respectfully urge the President and Congress to reject and condemn any suggestions that sexual relations between children and adults are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive, reprehensible, and punishable by law. *The measure would also request the American Psychological Association to repudiate and disassociate itself from any organization or publication that advocates sexual interaction between children and adults, or any study that suggests or claims that sexual relationships between adults and children are not harmful.*

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Children are a precious gift and
2 responsibility; and

3 WHEREAS, The spiritual, physical, and mental
4 well-being of children is our sacred duty; and

5 WHEREAS, No segment of our society is more critical
6 to the future of human survival and society than our
7 children; and

1 WHEREAS, It is the obligation of all public
2 policymakers not only to support, but also to defend the
3 health and rights of parents, families, and children; and

4 WHEREAS, Information endangering to children is
5 being made public and, in some instances, may be given
6 unwarranted or unintended credibility through release
7 under professional titles or through professional
8 organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, Elected officials have a duty to inform and
10 counter actions they consider damaging to children,
11 parents, families, and society; and

12 WHEREAS, California has made sexual molestation of
13 a child a felony and has declared parents who sexually
14 molest their children to be unfit; and

15 WHEREAS, Virtually all studies in this area, including
16 those published by the American Psychological
17 Association, condemn child sexual abuse as criminal and
18 harmful to children; and

19 ~~WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association~~
20 ~~has recently published a study that suggests that sexual~~
21 ~~relationships between adults and willing children are less~~
22 ~~harmful than believed and might even be positive for~~
23 ~~“willing” children; and~~

24 *WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association*
25 *in July 1998, published a review of 59 studies of college*
26 *aged students indicating that some sexual relationships*
27 *between adults and children may be less harmful than*
28 *believed, and that some of the college students viewed*
29 *their experiences as positive at the time they occurred, or*
30 *positive when reflecting back on them; and*

31 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association is
32 a highly respected organization, and by publishing a
33 professional opinion, the association lends legitimacy to
34 any issue; and

35 ~~WHEREAS, The publication of the study, “A~~
36 ~~Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of~~
37 ~~Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” thus lends~~
38 ~~legitimacy to the deviant issue of pedophilia; now, any~~
39 ~~issue; now, therefore, be it~~



1 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
2 *California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully*
3 *urges the President and Congress to reject and condemn,*
4 *in the strongest honorable written and vocal terms*
5 *possible, any suggestions that sexual relations between*
6 *children and adults are anything but abusive, destructive,*
7 *exploitive, reprehensible, and punishable by law; and be*
8 *it further*

9 *Resolved, That the Legislature condemns and*
10 ~~*denounces all suggestions in the recently published study*~~
11 ~~*by the American Psychological Association entitled “A*~~
12 ~~*Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of*~~
13 ~~*Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” that*~~
14 ~~*indicates sexual relationships between adults and*~~
15 ~~*“willing” children are less harmful than believed and*~~
16 ~~*might even be positive for “willing” children; and be it*~~
17 ~~*further denounces the conclusions of, and any and all*~~
18 ~~*persons or organizations who would utilize, the recently*~~
19 ~~*published study entitled “A Meta-Analytic Examination*~~
20 ~~*of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using*~~
21 ~~*College Samples,” which advocate that sexual*~~
22 ~~*relationships between adults and children are not*~~
23 ~~*harmful and are even positive for children; and be it*~~
24 ~~*further*~~

25 *Resolved, That the Legislature encourages competent*
26 *investigations to continue to research the effects of child*
27 *sexual abuse using the best methodology so that the*
28 *public and public policymakers may act upon accurate*
29 *information; and be it further*

30 *Resolved, That the Legislature requests that the*
31 *American Psychological Association denounce the report*
32 *it recently published regarding child sexual abuse; and be*
33 *it further*

34 *RESOLVED, That the Legislature requests that the*
35 *American Psychological Association repudiate and*
36 *disassociate itself from any organization or publication*
37 *that advocates sexual interaction between children and*
38 *adults and any study that suggests or otherwise claims*
39 *that sexual relationships between adults and children are*
40 *not harmful; and be it further*

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests California
 2 defense attorneys and California courts to disregard the
 3 study when dealing with cases involving child abuse and
 4 child molestation; and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
 6 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice
 7 President of the United States, the Governor of
 8 California, the majority leader of the Senate, the Speaker
 9 of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
 10 Representative from California in the Congress of the
 11 United States.

